

While other services have phased out Morse Code, use of Morse Code in the Amateur Radio Service has not. The Amateur Radio Service is not like the other services and should not be compared to them when deciding to retain the Element 1 requirement.

The Morse Code requirement is not a barrier to anyone wishing to obtain an Amateur Radio License. The Handi Hams organization is proof that people with handicaps can obtain licenses. In fact, those licensees benefit from amateur radio more than people without handicaps.

I have found in nearly 20 years of teaching amateur radio classes that the only "handicap" in obtaining a license is the individual who has the preconceived notion that code is hard. Five words per minute can be learned easily if the individual makes a commitment to learn it.

I recommend the current requirement for Element 1 testing be retained.